

## 2024 Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses

Friday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 5, 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Texas State University

**Framing Questions:** What is distinctive about studying history at the college level? What are the purposes of introductory history courses? What formats, teaching, and assignments help students learn? How should the civic goals for general education inform our teaching? How can we build a community of practice?

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College of Liberal Arts, Texas State University

**Friday, October 4th**

**8:15–9:00**

**Check-In, Registration, Continental breakfast – Taylor Murphy  
Hall 101**

**9:00–9:15**

**Issues and Goals of the Conference**

Mary Brennan, professor and dean of College of Liberal Arts (Texas State Univ.); Julia Brookins (American Historical Association)

**9:20–10:00**

**Designing Introductory History Courses for Student Success – Taylor  
Murphy Hall 101**

Chair: Daniel McInerney (Utah State Univ.) with Theresa Jach (Houston Community Coll.), Ellen Tillman (Texas State Univ.), Daniel Watkins (Baylor Univ.), and Gene Preuss (Univ. of Houston–Downtown)

**10:10–10:45**

**Breakout 1: “My Goals, Their Goals, Our Goals” – Taylor Murphy Hall**

What are the purposes of gateway history courses? What student needs do you try to meet? Who else has an interest in your courses, and how do you balance those interests in your teaching? Facilitated discussion of learning outcomes for introductory-level college history in different institutional settings, drawing on AHA Tuning, SSRC Measuring College Learning statements of history concepts and competencies, and other conference readings.

Your assigned group number will be on your name badge. Go to the room for your group:

Group	Location	Facilitators
Group 1	Room 110	Daniel McInerney (Utah State Univ.)
Group 2	Room 104	Theresa Jach (Houston Community Coll.)
Group 3	Room 105	Shawna Williams (Houston Community Coll.)
Group 4	Room 106	Jesse Esparza (Texas Southern Univ.)
Group 5	Room 201	Tomiko Meeks (Texas Southern Univ.)
Group 6	Room 101	Kent McGaughy (Houston Community Coll.), Casey Nichols (Texas State Univ.)

**11:00–11:15**

**Welcome – Wittliff Collections, Alkek Library, 7th Floor**

Kelly Damphousse, President (Texas State Univ.)

**11:15–12:00**

**State Support for History Instruction; Legislative outlook; Student Enrollments; Academic Freedom – Wittliff Collections, Alkek Library, 7th Floor**

Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in conversation with Trinidad Gonzales (South Texas Coll.)

**12:00–12:45**

**Lunch – Wittliff Collections, Alkek Library, 7th Floor**

**12:45–1:15**

**Teaching with Wittliff Collection Resources – Wittliff Collections, Alkek Library, 7th Floor**

Kristine Toma, (Witliff Collections), Margaret Vaverek, (Texas State Univ.)

**1:30–2:20**

**Breakout 2: Discussions by Course/Teaching Topic – Taylor Murphy Hall**

Topic	Location	Facilitators
Western Civilization	Room 105	Louie Dean Valencia (Texas State Univ.)
Texas History	Room 201	Thomas Alter and Jason Mellard (Texas State Univ.)
US History	Room 104	Kyle Longley (Chapman Univ.), Sara Damiano (Texas State Univ.)
African American History	Room 101	Dwonna Goldstone (Texas State Univ.)
Teaching Histories of Gender and Sexuality	Room 106	Jessica Pliley (Texas State Univ.), Allison Robinson (Texas State Univ.)
Preparing Texas Teachers	Room 110	Lara Newcomer (Texas State Univ.)

**2:30–3:20 Breakout 3: Discussions by Course/Teaching Topic – Taylor Murphy Hall**

Topic	Location	Facilitators
Mexican American History	Room 106	John McKiernan-Gonzalez (Texas State Univ.)
Teaching with LBJ Library Resources	Room 110	Kameko Jacobs (LBJ Library)
World Civilizations	Room 101	David Fisher (Univ. of Texas, Rio Grande Valley)
Texas Legislative Climate and Student Belonging	Room 105	Trinidad Gonzales (South Texas Coll.)
Public History Methods in Teaching	Room 201	Nancy Berlage (Texas State Univ.), Ruby Oram (Texas State Univ.)
US History	Room 104	Kyle Longley (Chapman Univ.), Sara Damiano (Texas State Univ.)

**3:20–3:40 Break**

**3:40–4:30 Research Findings and Insights from *American Lesson Plan: Teaching US History in Secondary Schools* – Taylor Murphy Hall 101**  
Moderator: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Member, District 5, Texas State Board of Education with Nicholas Kryczka (AHA), Remote Presentation on Zoom

**Saturday, October 5th**

**8:15–8:45 Coffee and Pastries**  
Sponsored by the OER Project

**8:45–9:00 Recap and Instructions for the Day, Recent AHA Initiatives –Taylor Murphy Hall 101**  
Julia Brookins (American Historical Association)

**9:00–10:15 Tiptoeing Through the Minefields in Texas and Beyond: Teaching Modern US History in a Divided World – Taylor Murphy Hall 101**  
Kyle Longley (Chapman Univ., Society for Military History), introduced by Ellen Tillman (Texas State Univ.)

**10:20–11:45 Assignment Workshop – Taylor Murphy Hall 105**  
Facilitator: Daniel McInerney (Utah State Univ.)

**10:20–11:45**

**Alternate Programming – Taylor Murphy Hall**

Time	Location	Session
10:20–11:00 a.m.	Room 104	<b>History Teaching and Learning in the Age of Artificial Intelligence</b> Theresa Case (Univ. of Houston–Downtown), Taylor Justin Tomlin (Coastal Bend Coll.)
10:20–11:00 a.m.	Room 105	<b>Crafting Effective Assignments with Primary Sources</b> Shannon Duffy (Texas State Univ.), Michael Crowder (Texas State Univ.)
10:20–11:00 a.m.	Room 106	<b>Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Opportunities, and the Implications for Higher Education</b> Trinidad Gonzales (South Texas Coll.)
11:05–11:45 a.m.	Room 201	<b>Growing Young Historians with National History Day</b> Elizabeth Bishop (Orient-Institut Beirut), Joy Harris Philpott (Hays High School)
11:05–11:45 a.m.	Room 101	<b>Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes</b> Tomiko Meeks (Texas Southern Univ.), Angela Murphy (Texas State Univ.)
11:05–11:45 a.m.	Room 110	<b>Teaching the Histories of the Native Peoples of Texas</b> Sponsored by the William P. Clement Center for Southwest Studies at SMU Shine Trabucco (Univ. of Houston)

**11:50–1:00**

**Lunch – Flowers Hall**

Sponsored by the OER Project  
Attendees fill out conference feedback forms

**1:10–1:45**

**What’s Next on Our Shared Agenda? Conference Lessons and the Path Forward for Our Disciplinary Community – Flowers Hall**

Jeffrey Helgeson (Texas State Univ.), Sandra Lara (Texas A&M Univ. San Antonio), Steven Mintz (Univ. of Texas at Austin), Trinidad Gonzales (South Texas Coll.)

**1:45–2:00**

**Book Raffle & AHA Annual Meeting CFP (Chicago, Jan. 2026) – Flowers Hall**

**2:00–2:30**

**Farewell Coffee, Networking – Flowers Hall**

### Conference Readings

AHA Tuning project, [History Discipline Core Statement](#) (revised December 2016)

Social Science Research Council, [History Essential Concepts and Competencies \(pdf\)](#) (2016)

Brookins, Julia and Laura Ansley, eds., [Designing Introductory History Courses for Student Success](#) (2024)

Richardson, Caleb Wood. “[Turning Inquiry into Action: Using Communities of Practice to Build Better Introductory History Courses](#),” *Perspectives on History*, December 2020.